



## 5-Year Plan (2008 to 2013) Kitsap Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Kitsap Conservation District,  
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### Organization of the Kitsap Conservation District

A subdivision of the State of Washington - authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- The Kitsap District was formed in 1949
- Five-member board of volunteer supervisors, three elected locally and two appointed by Washington State Conservation Commission, provides leadership to address local resource conservation issues.

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### Function of the Kitsap Conservation District

To coordinate available technical, financial and educational resources from various sources to assist local land managers with conservation of soil, water and natural resources.

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### Who we Serve

The Kitsap Conservation District promotes the small farm owner in order to maintain and expand economically viable agriculture while conserving natural resources. We do this by providing technical assistance and education to landowners, community groups and agencies to protect and improve the natural resources of Kitsap County.

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### Mission of the Kitsap Conservation District

The Kitsap Conservation District commits itself to:

- *Guiding conservation without regulation*
- *Educating by demonstration*
- *Forming partnerships to accomplish more*
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We dedicate ourselves to involving the community in better farming practices and natural resource protection now and for the future.

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### Vision of the Kitsap Conservation District

The vision of the District is to strengthen and promote natural resource stewardship, to implement programs that will conserve agricultural and natural resources by providing Kitsap landowners access to technical assistance, incentive programs, and education.

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### Values of the Kitsap Conservation District

- Create and sustain programs to advance agriculture.
  - Utilize a common sense approach to programs, projects and with partners.
  - Respect opinions and goals of Kitsap land managers.
  - Assist land managers in understanding and addressing natural resource issues.
  - Assist land managers in using conservation measures to improve water quality and salmon habitat.
  - Provide services and implement conservation practices on a voluntary basis.
  - Serve as a liaison between land managers, the public and regional and national agencies.
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## **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:**

### ***To maintain Kitsap Conservation District's partnerships within natural resource programs in the county.***

- Through 2013, Kitsap will continue to coordinate natural resource related activities in Kitsap County and adequate funding to complete the tasks needed.
- Maintain a long range approach of assistance to the Surface and Storm Water Management Program of Kitsap County.

### ***Provide technical assistance to private landowners for natural resource improvement***

- Through 2013, Kitsap will continue to implement effective programs to sustain agriculture and forestry industries in the county while addressing wildlife, fish and water resource concerns.

### ***Improved Water Quality***

- Through 2013, assist Surface and Storm Water Management Programs by cooperative efforts with program partners to improve water quality in areas with significant agricultural activity.

### ***Assist landowners with solutions to farm water quality concern.***

- Through 2013, identify and make contact with small farm owners and operators to educate them on the importance of adequate management practices.

### ***Promote Agriculture***

- Through 2013, assist landowners so they might increase the number of economically viable farms in Kitsap. Kitsap Conservation District recognizes the importance of working lands and will be a resource and adviser for maintaining viability of existing agriculture and assist landowners with new ventures.

### ***Set an Example of Conservation***

Through 2013, Kitsap Conservation District will set an example of conservation in all areas of work by:

- Utilizing Low Impact Development methodologies to design, implement and install Best Management Practices.
- Practice conservation and low 'Carbon Foot Print' methodologies in everyday practices of the District
- Be fiscally conservative with programs, recognizing the public support of the District through grants and other contracts.
- Demonstrate conservation and reuse/recycle methodologies in everyday practices.

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## **Critical Geographic Areas:**

- Kitsap County has 228 miles of shoreline and near-shore habitat. This makes water quality, quantity, and habitat a priority geographic. It is critical to protect this area and Kitsap Conservation District will include the concern for this unique critical area in all aspects of its outreach and education and technical assistance.

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## **Information – Education Priorities and Goals:**

Increase public education/outreach programs to inform landowners and the public about the district and issues

- Create small farm education and demonstration projects
  - Regularly publish newsletters.
  - Assist in public and school programs for water quality and natural resources.
  - Promote an annual tree and plant sale
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**District Operations Priorities, Goals:**

- Maintain stable funding sources and contracts.
- Seek new opportunities for contracts and innovative grants.
- Maintain staff salaries/benefits commensurate with other Conservation Districts.
- Provide training opportunities for Supervisors and staff.
- Complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, Supervisor elections & appointments, training & development, annual planning and reporting.

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**Trends Impacting Conservation in the Kitsap Conservation District**

**Trend:** Increased scrutiny on the management of water resources on and near agricultural lands

**Strategy:** Provide technical assistance to landowners addressing water quality

**Trend:** Constant pressure to develop open space, agricultural land and shoreline.

**Strategies:** Assist and encourage landowners to optimize production on existing natural resource lands and currently developed properties.

**Trend:** Increased demand for locally produced agricultural products.

**Strategies:**

- Assist landowners with development of value added agricultural products for local markets.
- Assist landowners with infrastructure for value added processing.
- Work with county government to create an ongoing agricultural advisory committee.
- Work with county government to provide and understanding of agricultural land values and incentives.

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**Staffing Needs**

1 FTE District Coordinator

1 FTE District Financial Coordinator

1 FTE District Technical Coordinator

.5 Environmental Education/Administrative Assistant

3.5 FTE Planners

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**Annual Budget Needs**

Operating Budget Needs: To maintain existing programs budget needs total \$648,500 in 2008 and increasing approximately 3% each year afterward to 2013.

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**Key Decision Makers**

Citizens of Kitsap County

Kitsap Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Washington Association of Conservation Districts Board

Washington Conservation Commission

Kitsap County Board of Commissioners

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**Priority Actions:** The priority actions of Kitsap Conservation District are stated in a well-functioning Annual Plan prepared by the staff of the District and approved by the Board of Supervisors annually.

**Washington Conservation Districts assisting Land Managers with their conservation choices**

